

Children With Additional Needs

(*Additional needs include disability, developmental delay, gifted development, children who are at risk because of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds or family circumstance.)

Children with additional needs may be able to start preschool two terms before they would normally start. This is decided on a case by case basis in collaboration with Regional Office Student Support Services.

Aboriginal Children and Children under the Guardianship of the Minister for Education and Child Development can go to preschool from the time they are 3. They are able to access up to 12 hours of preschool per week until they turn 4. Children will continue to access 12 hours until they are eligible to start the full preschool program. Please contact the Preschool Director to negotiate enrolment.



Enrolment Process

Formal enrolments may only be accepted 10 weeks prior to the preschool start day. Informal waiting lists may be developed by the Site Leader but will not guarantee a place. Families will be notified of enrolment confirmation within 8 weeks of the child's start date.

Enrolment at more than one site

Children may not access more than their preschool entitlement of 15 hours a week. This is best when accessed at one centre, but a child may be enrolled at more than one centre. If a child is enrolled and continuing to access 15 hours a week at one centre, they may not be enrolled at another centre. It is recommended that the preschool site/service is chosen carefully with consideration given to the Priority of Access guidelines.

**Developed by
Port Augusta Preschool Site Leaders,
in collaboration with
Port Augusta Regional Office,
Early Childhood Consultant.**

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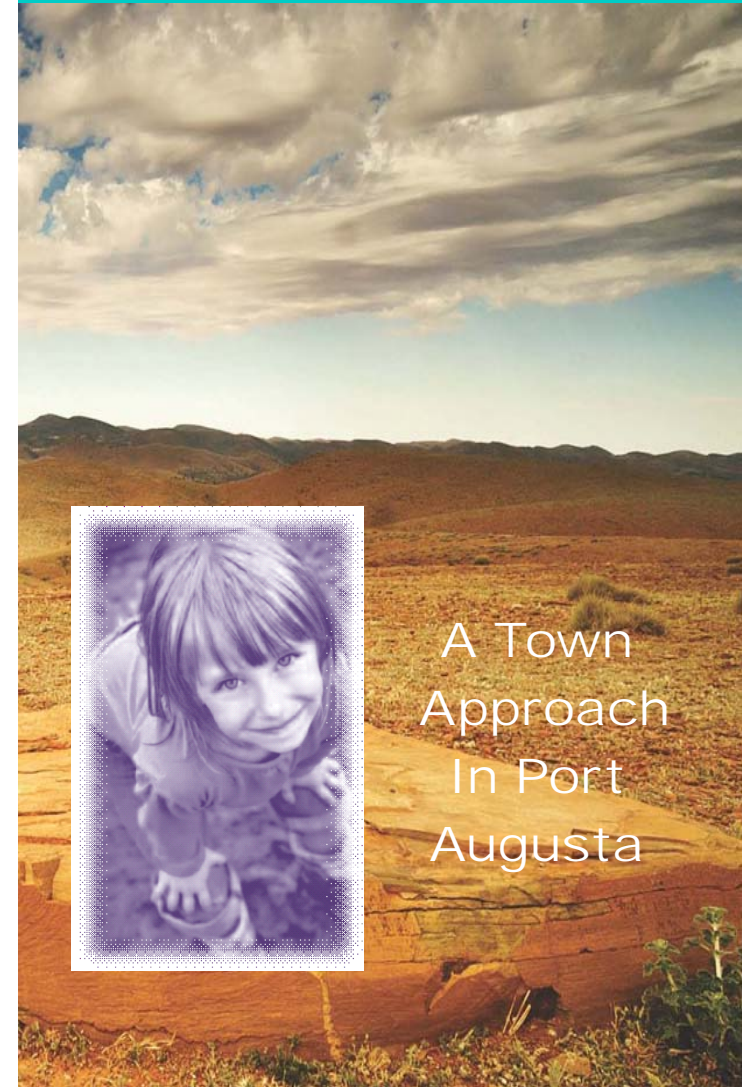
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Government of South Australia
**Department for Education and
Child Development**

Preschool Enrolments & Same First Day from 2013



A Town
Approach
In Port
Augusta

Information for Families

Preschool is an important early step on a child's journey through education, giving them the chance to play, learn, grow and develop.

There will soon be a change to the way children start preschool. South Australia will implement a Same First Day Policy which will align with other States and Territories in Australia.

From 2014, the Same First Day Policy means that every child in Australia will have four terms of preschool and then four terms of Reception when they go to school.

Changes will begin to apply and be completed in preschools in 2013 as we move towards full implementation in 2014.

All preschools in Pt. Augusta have adopted a similar approach to starting preschool within this time

From 2014

If a child turns 4 before 1 May, 2014, they will start preschool on the first day of Term 1, 2014.

If a child turns 4 on or after 1 May, 2014, they will start preschool on the first day of Term 1, 2015.

Transitional Arrangements in 2013

In the transition year (only 2013) there will be 2 intakes.

A - If a child has turned 4 by 29 January in 2013 they may start preschool in Term 1, 2013. They will have access to their full entitlement of 600 hours of preschool over 4 terms.

B - If a child turns 4 between 29 January and 1 May, they may start preschool on the first day of Term 2, 2013. All children are eligible for 600hrs of preschool even if they are starting in Term 2 in 2013. In this instance, the site leader will offer extra sessions **where possible**. Where a service does not operate enough sessions to offer extra the site leader will recommend that all children start at the beginning of Term 1, **if the building and warranted staffing capacity allows**. Children starting in Term 2, 2013 will have a combined total of 7 terms in preschool and Reception as they do under the current policy, with the combination of 3 terms of preschool and 4 terms of Reception, rather than 4 terms of preschool and 3 terms of Reception.

Please note: Part time centres may not be able to offer all 600hrs for children starting in Term 2.

The new Same First Day Policy means there will be no general intake of children in Terms 3 and 4.

Sites will NOT be offered extra staffing to accommodate the extra sessions.

Capacity

In order to manage the enrolments of eligible children, including any offer of additional preschool hours for Term 2 children in 2013, preschools will need to operate within the building and staffing capacity for their centre.

Capacity (continued)

Once a centre has reached its capacity the Director will recommend enrolment at the next nearest preschool site to the family's residence. Where a family is referred to another site, the referring site has a responsibility to register the family details with the Early Childhood Consultant (ECC). The ECC will facilitate engagement in a preschool program within the town.

Priority of Access

Priority of access will be given to the following children in order and in accordance with DECD policy.

1. Children under Guardianship of the Minister, and children at Risk of Abuse and Neglect (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are also under the guardianship of the Minister, will take priority of any other GOM child)
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
3. Children with additional needs who have been formally identified through DECD criteria (Disability, Developmental Delay, Gifted children, Children at risk because of culturally linguistic diverse backgrounds)
4. Socially and Rurally isolated children
5. Geographic location (ie. nearest centre)
6. Children who have siblings with an existing enrolment in the Preschool (or school if a school based preschool)
7. A child who intends on enrolling at the school (this is for school based preschools only)
8. Visiting children or short term enrolments.